

Speech behavior of women politicians. gender aspect

Over the last decades, there has been an increase of interest in studies focusing on the gender difference of discourses. One of the most important aspects of these studies is to analyze peculiarities of communication in same-sex and mixed groups. A number of researchers have shown that speech behavior strategies of men and women develop on the basis of patriarchal stereotypes reflected in the language.

Although considerable amount of research has been devoted to the general issues of gender roles, few attempts have been made to observe any changes of women's speech behavior that happen as a result of the influence of 'men's' job. It was thus of interest to investigate the sphere of politics. As statistics show, in 183 countries the average percentage of women in politics accounts for 15.4 %. As a result, it is mostly the 'men's world' where men dominate and women have to adjust.

In general, the main speech behavior characteristic of politicians is confidence. Although women politicians demonstrate confident speech behavior, male politicians are yet more confident. Politicians often use speech acts of evaluation. This usage corresponds to the aim of political discourse to win over the opinion of people. According to the research data, women use speech acts of evaluation more often in comparison to men, thus they are more active and straightforward. Politicians can be either aggressors or manipulators in their speech behavior. The characteristic of the first type is individualism, ambitiousness, desire for domination. The other type, on the contrary, is characterized by objective self-esteem and ability to cooperate. No distinct difference between men and women was found there. Though usually women are considered to be more emotional, in politics, women's speech behavior proved to be more reserved than that of men-politicians.

The findings of the study thus suggest that women in politics incline to show the same speech behavior as men do, moreover their discourse can be even more masculine than that of men, which is the indicator of the influence of the profession.